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Equipping and Training the Federation (U)

Background (S): International efforts to negotiate peace in the former Yugoslavia are more likely to result in an enduring peace if the Bosnian Muslim - Bosnian Croat Federation (the "Federation") has a military capability to defend itself against the Bosnian Serbs. The USG will support an international effort to provide military assistance to the Federation so it can develop a more viable defense vis-a-vis the Bosnian Serbs. Recent Bosnian successes against the Bosnian Serb Army do not change this fundamental judgment, because they have been so dependent on Croatian efforts.

Net Assessment (S): The military balance in Bosnia and the Federation's specific needs will require a detailed assessment, including an in-country evaluation of Federation capabilities. That said, considerable information is now available.

Discussions with regional specialists in the US intelligence community have indicated that an equip and train effort may be necessary, but only on a limited scale. The Bosnian Serbs have an equipment advantage (~4:1 in tanks, ~10:1 in APCs, ~2:1 in artillery), whereas the Federation has a manpower advantage (2:1). Qualitatively, the Federation's military effectiveness is limited by both equipment shortages (the Muslim army cannot even provide small arms to all of its combat troops) and by a lack of operational coordination between Muslims and Croats. The Bosnian Serbs have shown better organizational skills, but are constrained by manpower shortages. Both sides' skills in static defenses and the resulting stalemates in many parts of the country and, more recently, dynamic results on the battlefield attest to only a modest imbalance in aggregate capability!

Based on the above, equip and train requirements will probably be modest and include small arms and ammunition, man-portable air defenses, ground mobility vehicles and perhaps small numbers of tanks and artillery. Training efforts will likely center on newly-provided equipment and on defensive skills and tactics.

Objective (S): Assist the Federation in attaining a more effective self-defense capability so that the Bosnian Serbs will be deterred from aggression. Do so without significantly increasing the offensive power projection capabilities of the Federation, upsetting the regional arms balance, or permitting radical states or extremist groups to gain undue influence in the region.

Desired End State (S): The Federation has enhanced its capability to defend its territory against Bosnian Serb aggression by 31 December 1996.

Mission (S): Once a peace agreement is reached, a coordinated multinational coalition will provide defensive military equipment and training to selected elements of the Federation forces to enhance their ability to defend the territorial integrity of the Federation.

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Assumptions (S):

- A peace agreement is negotiated, is implemented by a NATO-led peace implementation force (IFOR), and, by lifting the arms embargo generally, permits providing military assistance to the Federation.
- A coalition of willing nations provides military assistance (equipment and training) to the Federation.
- A phased assessment of Federation capabilities, including in-country portions, is conducted to identify the highest priority requirements.
- The military assistance mission is totally separate from the NATO-led IFOR.
- The military assistance mission conforms to US and international law.
- Enabling legislation is enacted to give legal authority for the US to provide assistance and to provide funding.
- Radical nations (e.g., Iran, Libya, Iraq, Sudan) are excluded from
 participating in the mission. Federation acceptance of assistance from
 radical/pariah states is prohibited by the assistance agreement with the
 Federation.
- To facilitate achieving a more stable military balance, a cap on the numbers
 of selected categories of major weapon systems available to each of the
 parties may be included as an element of the peace agreement.
- Confidence building measures may be included in the peace agreement to further reduce the likelihood of a breakdown of the peace.

Guidelines (S):

Equipment

- Equipment provided would address the Federation's most significant defensive vulnerabilities:
 - Antiarmor capabilities (antitank weapons, tanks (modest numbers))
 - Artillery capabilities (artillery, fire direction systems)
 - Maneuver unit mobility (APCs)
 - Antiair capabilities (MANPADs/AAA)
- For compatibility, mostly former WP equipment will be provided.
- Equipment which is principally offensive in nature, or which could represent
 a significant threat to regional nations, will not be provided. (Examples:
 Attack aircraft, TBMs, other offensive weapon systems, large armor forces)

Training

- Training will focus on defensive deficiencies and developing a sustainable organic training capability. Offensive tasks will not be addressed.
- Training may address individual, unit, or multi-unit needs.
- Training will principally address operational/tactical activities and operation/maintenance/employment of newly provided equipment.

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- Training may be conducted both within and outside Federation territory.
- Specifics of training to be provided will be based on assessment of Federation deficiencies in defensive operations and available resources.
- Training may [will] be provided by contractor personnel and non-IFOR
 military, rather than by active duty US (or other IFOR nation) military
 personnel. Sufficient US personnel will be involved to both coordinate the
 operation and provide continuity in military-to-military contacts.
- The training effort could include:
 - New equipment training
 - Leader training in defensive tactics
 - Basic soldier/unit defensive skills
 - Organizational procedures for combined arms

Mission Completion (S): The mission will be complete when equipment and training have been provided to the Federation forces to permit an effective defensive capability and the ability to sustain it. The mission will be terminated when complete, but not later than 31 December 1996.

Continuing Operations -(C):- A small US security assistance presence might continue after mission completion to help the Federation sustain its capabilities and to maintain military-to-military contacts.

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